Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chinese Technology

THEME: Technology

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Technology can tell a lot about a civilization’s values and advancement. Han technology from China was highly advanced and important in developing its culture.

TASK:

Write a paragraph in which you:

* Identify the type of technology the Han Dynasty created and how they used it
* Evaluate how the Han felt about (i.e. their attitude towards) their technology [useful, destructive, etc] **and why** [can compare to other early civilizations and how they felt about their technology]

Be sure to have a

* clear topic sentence,
* supporting details from three documents (do not quote but do use citations – ex. [doc 2])
* outside information (i.e. information that is not in the documents but is relevant to your paragraph – think specific technologies like “Grand Canal” or “Great Wall”)
* for one of the documents, identify how the **author’s point of view** impacted his attitude towards technology.

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In your groups,

1. Have Person 1 read the document out loud to group
2. Have Person 2 summarize the main idea about the passage
3. Have 1st person read just the source again
4. As group - complete the Point of View Questions for your document.
5. Person 3 – reread the passage again – this time line-by-line – close read it – underline key ideas, circle unfamiliar words, write questions/connections in the space provided next to the document.
6. As group answer the focus question using this document: “What technology do the Han use and what does the document suggest about the attitude the Chinese had about technology?”

Document I –

Source: Han government official, writing to local officials concerning flood prevention, early 2nd century BCE (ca. 180 BC).

*I request that you establish water conservation offices in each district and staff them with people who are experienced in the ways of water. There should be one high official and one deputy with just enough workers to meet the need. For the area on both sides of each river select one person as a chief hydraulic engineer. Order inspections of the waterways, the walls of the cities and their suburbs, the dikes and rivers, canals and pools, and government buildings and cottages, and supply enough workers to those who are to carry out the repair work in each district*

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| Main Idea of Passage: |

Point of View:

* Who is responsible for this document?
* What was the audience for this document?
* What is their tone and why do they have it?
* What did the author hope to achieve by making this document?
* What was going on at the time that would have influenced the making of the document?

|  |
| --- |
| Close Reading:  ?  ∞ |
| Focus Question:  What technology is mentioned:  How did the Chinese feel about their technology? |

Document 2

Source: Huan Guan, Han government official, *Discourses on Salt and Iron*, first century B.C.E. (ca. 8 BC)

*In earlier times workers were allowed to do both foundry work and salt-boiling as long as they reported the work and paid a tax. In the past, tools manufactured by individual families to do this work were well-made. Today, the iron tools that workers are required to use are produced by the state using prison labor; these tools are often crude and not very functional. In previous times, the tools manufactured by workers for their own use and for sale were of excellent quality. Now that the state has monopolized the salt and iron trades, most of the tools provided to the workers are hard and brittle and the responsible government officials are often not available to take complaints.*

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| Main Idea of Passage: |

Point of View:

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| Close Reading:  ?  ∞ |
| Focus Question:  What technology is mentioned:  How did the Chinese feel about their technology? |

Document 3

Source: Huan Tan, upper-class Confucian philosopher, *New Discourses*, about 20 C.E.

*Fuxi\* invented the pestle and mortar. Later on, the pestle and the mortar were cleverly improved in such a way that the whole weight of the body could be used, thus increasing the efficiency ten times. In time, the power of animals – donkeys, mules, oxen, and horses – was added. Later, water power was also applied, and the benefit was increased a hundredfold.*

*\*Fuxi is a mythological wise emperor.*

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| Main Idea of Passage: |

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| Close Reading:  ?  ∞ |
| Focus Question:  What technology is mentioned:  How did the Chinese feel about their technology? |

Document 4

Source: *History of the Early Han Dynasty* (government-sponsored history), about 200 C.E.

*Tu Shih was appointed governor of Nanyang [about 31 C.E.]. He was a generous man and his policies were peaceful. He destroyed evil-doers and established the dignity of his office. Good at planning, Tu Shih loved the common people and wished to save their labor. He invented a water-powered blowing-engine for the casting of iron agricultural implements that allowed people to enjoy great benefit for little labor. His invention has been widely adopted and used.*

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| Main Idea of Passage: |

Point of View:

* Who is responsible for this document?
* What was the audience for this document?
* What is their tone and why do they have it?
* What did the author hope to achieve by making this document?
* What was going on at the time that would have influenced the making of the document?

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| Close Reading:  ?  ∞ |
| Focus Question:  What technology is mentioned:  How did the Chinese feel about their technology? |

Graphic Organizer

Create a graphic organizer below to help you write this paragraph. Consider these things:

1. Answer all the tasks (and all PARTS of a task)
2. Information from Document (and citation of document)
3. One POV
4. Outside Information